



Update for hub partners – October 2014

Ten Pieces

The BBC Learning project, focused this year on primary schools launches nationally next month with free cinema screenings. If you have not already booked your places, there are just a few left. You can find out far more about this exciting project and follow links to book the screening at: www.bbc.co.uk/tenpieces

Primary Music Conference 2014

Another exciting development within the Hub has Berkshire Maestros and partners delivering a number of mini conferences this year for primary school music co-ordinators, music teachers and class teachers responsible for the delivery of the KS2 Music National Curriculum. The first of these will be in partnership with the Kennet School Academies Trust for colleagues in the Thatcham, Newbury and Reading areas on November 3rd at Kennet School. This CPD opportunity will offer three workshops: Engaging Pupils Vocally, Building Rhythm into Classroom Music and Creating Confident Composers. If you are interested in attending or sending a teacher from your school, please contact dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk who will furnish you with all relevant details. Other CPD opportunities will follow across the county throughout the year. For schools outside of the Kennet cluster, there is a nominal charge of £10 per delegate to include lunch.

Academy on Sundays – the hub's gifted and talented programme ages 8 to 14

The year got off to a great start, with an excellent atmosphere and buzz among the attending pupils. The session also saw the launch of our Piano Academy for gifted, talented young pianists. The session was designed and led by Anna Lang and film composer Gabrielle Ridgeon and was excellently received. Key headlines:

- 31 String Players, 20 Brass Players, 20 Woodwind players, 11 pianists
- 10 Hub staff
- 5 musicians from the brilliant RPO team (2 violin, 1 viola, 1 cello and 1 bass)

- Ben Pope, conductor from the RPO led the full string rehearsals in advance of their concert project at Reading Town Hall on October 4
- Woodwind players experienced high level chamber coaching focussing on instrumental technique and ensemble skills
- Brass players were treated to a Brass Band workshop with small group sectionals to address articulation, intonation and blend

Soundbites from the students included:

'They (RPO) play so loudly, I have to work hard to keep up' – cellist. 'It's really fun to play these big sounds (new work by Soosan Lolavar) in a string group' – violinist

'It's inspiring hearing them (RPO) play, they make us sound even better!' violinist. I always have to work extra hard when I'm with other good players' – Tuba player 'They make it really challenging for me, they never stop!' – French horn player 'I enjoy having a part to myself, it's scary but much more fun' – oboe player

If you have children you believe to be of outstanding musical ability, then do flag them up to us.

Calling all Hub Partners

Are you mentioned in this newsletter? We can only include updates and information that we are sent. Our next newsletter will be going out in early December. Please send material in plenty of time.

WOW Factor – a hub initiative in rural West Berkshire

Following a review of previous work with the Rainbow Choir, a decision was taken to re-launch under an umbrella title, 'W.O.W. Factor'. This new initiative creates opportunities for students learning instruments and singing in schools in rural West Berkshire to perform together as an ensemble at specific local events. We also aim to support transition from primary to secondary school, and prevent students from giving up learning an instrument or singing at this stage.

Our launch event for 'W.O.W. Factor' was a transition project culminating in workshops and a performance at John O'Gaunt secondary school as part of community days in July 2014. Staff from the Hub worked in partnership with the head of modern foreign languages, head of year 7 and head of performing arts in order to plan and deliver the event. In order to provide a link with MFL, we decided on a world cup football theme.



Staff from the feeder primary schools provided detailed information on children in feeder primary schools learning an instrument. We provided primary schools with a vocal score,

backing track and instrumental parts tailored to the pupils involved. Schools were encouraged to use these materials in class and in instrumental lessons prior to the event.



Of the 300 year 5 and 6 children attending the community days at JOG, 160 children participated in the music sessions. 55 of these children performed on their musical instrument during the sessions, and for the final performance to parents at the end.

The sessions launched with a beat boxing and vocal warm up featuring a football chant in either French or German, the languages taught at JOG. This was led by Maestros staff in collaboration with an MFL teacher, and used materials provided by the head of MFL.

Following the warm up, students split into three groups. One group consisted of the instrumentalists previously identified, and these students rehearsed 'Hot Hot Hot' together with Anna Lang. The remaining two groups received two sessions, a choir session where they learnt the vocal parts from 'Hot Hot Hot' with Wendy Harvey, and a percussion session where they learn Latin percussion rhythms with Wendy and Joe Hurst. The sessions culminated with a joint rehearsal between the vocalists and the instrumentalists.

Throughout the sessions, year 5 and 6 pupils were assisted by year 7 JOG pupils who gave both practical and musical support to the younger learners. The days culminated in a 'Mad Hatters Tea Party.'

Young Singer and Young String Player of the year competitions

Children and young people have until 3rd October to enter for the Berkshire Young Singer of the Year competition. Round 1 will take place on 11th October with regional heats in Newbury, Bracknell, Reading and Windsor. There are three categories to enter: classical song; musical theatre including popular song and unaccompanied folk song. In each there are three age categories: 12 years and under; 13 to 15 years; 16 to 18 years.

In partnership with the Windsor International Spring Festival the Berkshire Music Hub is proud to invite entries for the Young String Player competition culminating in a final at the Waterloo Chamber, Windsor on Friday 20th March as part of the International Festival. Closing date is Friday 3rd October, first round Saturday 11th October and there are three age categories 9 years and under; 12 years and under, and 15 years and under

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**